

“Faith comes from hearing the message.” (Romans 10:17)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary April 2018

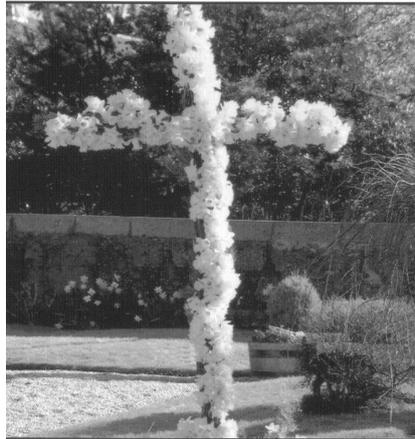


Photo courtesy John Troup

I heard twa angels singin afore the daw wis bricht,
Tane said “Daith is vincuisht” an ane wi gowden voice
Sang “Luve haes conquered – conquered aa,
O heiven an yirth rejoice.”

(part of “Luve conquers aa”, by W.G. Pritchard.)

The Faith Journey Core Group hopes that this Prayer Diary will be a useful daily companion that will help unite us in prayer at Cults Kirk. Please send your contributions or requests for the May diary by April 20th to Andrew Fairhead. andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

At 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month, everyone is welcome to meet in Morven at the Kirk Centre for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, and to talk informally about praying. (You don't have to talk if you would rather just be there in silence.)

Our prayer team will pray for individuals, or about more confidential matters on your behalf. Please put your written request into one of the prayer boxes at the Kirk or the Kirk Centre, or let Shuna know and she will confidentially notify the team.

Sunday April 1 What foolishness, Father, to send Your Son to the mercy of wild humankind. But You were lovingly, deadly serious. And now is the moment of revelation. All is forgiven. If it were not, my wrongs would part me from You...

Our three services today will provide different opportunities to celebrate and reflect on God's Easter news. Might I always stay close to You now, Lord.

Monday April 2 *(A children's prayer)* I'm sorry I've sometimes done wrong, like the people who took Jesus to the cross. But now you've brought Him back to life again, I know that You still love me. If I can just remember that, it will help me to do better.

Tuesday April 3 We pray that more protection can be provided for the Christian girls' schools in north-eastern Nigeria, which at the moment are easy targets for the ruthless Boko Haram terrorists. We commend to God's care all faith groups that are living under threat. Bring all who would aggrieve them to a new understanding.

Wednesday April 4 Thank you Lord Jesus for teaching us to strive for justice. May Your Spirit encourage our Green Group and Justice & Peace Group, both meeting this evening, and all of us, to strive together. We can do bigger things when we help each other.

Thursday April 5 Though last month's Messy Church had to be cancelled, we prayed then that our loyal families and new ones would be keen to join this happy thanksgiving for Jesus's life and ministry, and His journey to resurrection. Accept our prayer again, Lord. May Messy Church return to vigorous progress.

Friday April 6 How tragic that this Easter, yet again, people around the world are having to fight the evil of knife and gun crime. We pray particularly that the USA can turn itself from the folly of gun ownership. May the Lord help them.

Saturday April 7 Lord, do I know anyone who needs to be reminded that You have forgiven them? Then give me the sensitivity to ease them of the burden they are carrying.

Sunday April 8 *Every Sunday marks the Resurrection Day. We ask God's blessing on all Christ's followers who cannot gather with others today, for whatever reason, but who are still gladdened by the news "Christ is risen indeed!" And we pray particularly for those who need the encouragement of that news of salvation.*

We pray for those worshipping this afternoon at Deeside Care Home, led by Shuna and our members.

Monday April 9 May the carers at CrossReach's Balmedie House be pleased to think that it has been providing care for the elderly for eighty years. May carers everywhere be pleased to think they are doing the work that Jesus encouraged us all to do.

Tuesday April 10 *We ask for God's blessing on the Rotary movement's local, national and international work; and particularly on the guest house it has built in Bandipur, Nepal. We are praying for it, Lord, because all such projects are precarious. May it provide much-needed local employment, and profits to support local schools. We are glad that our member Bruce Anderson and colleagues have been there to help, and we give thanks for all such volunteer troubleshooters, wherever they are working.*

Wednesday April 11 Lord, teach us to be grateful for the love, care and support of family and friends, not only for the big events in our lives, but each day.

Thursday April 12 *...and still they are forced from their homes, Lord: from Syria, Myanmar, Central Africa. Grant them safe passage, whether they dodge violence or cross dangerous seas. Help us to ensure there are places of safety and dignity.*

Friday April 13 With Presbytery celebrating partnerships between churches tomorrow, let us give thanks for the ways that these partnerships can enlighten, encourage and enrich the churches taking part. We pray that, with God's help, this will happen to our church and our partner church, Mlombwa.

Saturday April 14 *Older folk remember times when money was tight and materials scarce, so nothing got wasted. When both became plentiful we wanted things cheap and easy, and didn't see the consequences. Father, Who created us to be careful and resourceful, look upon us as we try to re-learn what that means. Look upon the Green Group's "What We Can Do" coffee morning as a small way of encouraging each other.*

Sunday April 15 Lord, You know that we are worried that not enough young families and children come to Church, and we're not sure how that's going to change. But even as we watch for Your guidance, JAM resumes today. Grant that this little group will maintain its happy sense of learning and loving together.

Monday April 16 *Surely after our Easter salvation, we should be rid of hatred towards each other, one of the ugliest of human attitudes. Let us pray particularly for the potential victims of right-wing and supremacist hatred, which somehow has been growing in our society, and in other parts of the world. With God's help, might we notice the opportunities we have for denouncing and quelling it.*

Tuesday April 17 How's that for stewarding God's creation? Man deems the elephant a nuisance when alive, and valuable when dead. Let us pray for all work to conserve our fabulous biodiversity and to protect it from malign intent.

Wednesday April 18 *Aberdeen churches are hearing from their partners in Malawi that the crops have failed in some parts of that country, and there will be food shortages in a few months time. Let us, who have more than is good for us, pray for all parts of the world where food is scarce. May they receive generous help, some of it from ourselves.*

Thursday April 19 With the Queen's birthday approaching, let us pray for all our senior citizens, and give thanks for all they have given us personally and collectively. The Lord bless them and keep them.

Friday April 20 *Our Lord knew the importance of conviviality, and celebrated it, and blessed it. We pray that the Guild's quiz night will be enjoyed by all, and will introduce more to the Guild's many qualities and activities.*

Saturday April 21 We pray for Baitu Taleem, that meets in our Centre every Saturday morning. May its pupils' growing knowledge of classical Arabic put them on the right road to Islam.

Sunday April 22 *We pray for Kingswells Parish Church, whose minister has been called to another church. We know the anxiety of their situation in these leaner times for established churches. May the Holy Spirit tend their hopes during this period of waiting.*

Monday April 23 We bring before You, Father, our hope that the leaders of North and South Korea and the USA will meet. Foster goodwill that may begin to remove the threat of nuclear war.

Tuesday April 24 *Father, how shaming that all are equal in Your sight, but not in ours. In spite of the minimum and living wages going up this month, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. May Your Holy Spirit embolden Christians to fight for justice.*

Wednesday April 25 Lord Jesus, You prayed to God, and so therefore may we, at our prayer meeting this evening or at any other time. Hear our hopes for those in need – some known to us and others not – expressed with faith that You are listening and attentive.

Thursday April 26 *Lord Jesus, carry those who are grieving until they can feel their own feet on solid ground again. You carry us more than we know, but maybe we should be more aware. We should know we can call on You, and sense that You are with us.*

We give thanks for those who serve on our Congregational Board. May the Lord bless their endeavours, and recognise that they are in the service of His Kingdom.

Friday April 27 Lord, we commend to You our 050 Group's fundraising activities, which at the moment are supporting Lovat Lodge in Nairn. May tonight's Italian evening assist the renovation and re-equipping of this special hotel, to make it an even nicer place for its guests with mobility problems.

Saturday April 28 *Creator God, bless the Eco-Congregation movement, and accept our sorrow, echoed at its Scottish annual gathering today, for changing the climate, killing wildlife, filling the seas with plastic, and producing waste that the world can't cope with. Our hope is in the younger generation revolting against our prodigal ways. Help them to see more clearly Your miraculous vision.*

Sunday April 29 May we approach Communion with a new seriousness. Risen Christ, we realise the agony You endured for us; but in spite of it all, You have come back to shepherd us to our eternal home. But there is more. We are no longer mere sheep, no longer irresponsible: You have shown us how to become new people, using our hands and hearts to heal mankind's wounds. May Your Spirit be upon us.

Monday April 30 *Lord teach us to look out for one another: to be good neighbours to each other and take time to listen, especially when someone is hurting or grieving. Lord, give those who need it the strength and courage to speak about their hurt and pain, and so to be comforted by others.*